July 11, 1991, defence expenditure is indicated as follows (in Nepalese Rupees):—

1027.214 (1989-90 Actual); 1136.118 (1990-91 Revised Estimates) 1429.685 (1991-92 Estimates).

Bangladesh spends approximately 15% of its total budget on defence matters. The expenditure during 1990-91 and 1991-92 has been Tk 1179.96 crores and Tk 1209.83 crores respectively.

Myanmar has earmarked $ 1.22 billion for defence during current financial year 1992-93. This is about 13.67% of its estimated GDP.

Killing of Indian Fisherman Near Katchatheevu

@1652. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Indian fisherman are being shot at and killed by Sri Lankan Navy near Katchatheevu and this is creating a panic in the sea coast of Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether Government propose to frame a new scheme to protect the life and rights of the Indian fishermen near Katchatheevu Island; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) The Government are aware of incidents of attack by Sri Lanka Navy on Indian fishermen on the Sri Lanka side of the International Boundary line. Government have taken up all such cases with the Government of Sri Lanka who have conveyed that strict instructions have been issued to Sri Lankan Navy to restrain from any violence against Indian fishing vessels and to escort straying vessels to the Indian side of the International Boundary line. The International Boundary line is delineated by the Indo-Sri Lanka Maritime Boundary Agreements of 1974 and 1976 under which sovereignty over Katchathateevu rests with Sri Lanka. There is no change in the Government's position on these Agreements. However, Government are making a study to examine the modalities by which the extent traditional rights of Indian fishermen in the area can be exercised.

@ Previously Unstarred Question 1190, transferred from the 7th May, 1992.

Diplomatic Relations with Kabul

1653. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India back the new Kabul regime with full diplomatic status;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any envoy from the new Government contacted their Indian counterpart to know about our stands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) We have officially acknowledged that the new Mujahideen Council is functioning as the interim Government of Afghanistan.

(c) Our Ambassador in Kabul has conveyed this position to the representatives of the Government of Afghanistan.

Payment for Indian Police Contingent in Namibia

@ 1653A. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount paid by the United Nations per person to Government for its Police Contingent sent to Namibia in 1989-90;

(b) whether this amount was transferred to members of Indian Police Contingent; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

@ Previously Unstarred Question 962, transferred from the 6th May, 1992.